

Claims

We claim:

- 5 1. A nucleic acid comprising a modified gene encoding an anti-microbial protein wherein the coding sequence is from the natural host, but has been modified to allow expression of the active form.
- Sub 10 2. The gene of claim 1 wherein the modified gene is operatively linked to at least one mammalian regulatory sequence.
3. The gene of claim 1 wherein the modified gene contains mutations that eliminate one or more glycosylation sites.
- 15 4. A modified gene comprising a gene encoding lysostaphin, wherein the lysostaphin gene has been modified to allow expression of the active form of lysostaphin.
- 20 5. The gene of claim 4 wherein the modified gene is operatively linked to at least one mammalian regulatory sequence.
- Sub 25 6. The gene of claim 4 wherein the modified gene is operatively linked to at least one mammalian regulatory sequence and contains mutations that eliminate one or more glycosylation sites.
7. The gene of claim 4 wherein the modified gene is operatively linked to at least one mammalian regulatory sequence and contains mutations that eliminate both glycosylation sites

8. The gene of claim 4 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises preprolysostaphin.

5 9. The gene of claim 4 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises prolysostaphin.

10. The gene of claim 4 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises mature lysostaphin.

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11. A nucleic acid comprising a gene encoding lysostaphin that is biologically active when expressed in mammalian cells.

12. The gene of claim 11 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as compared with SEQ ID NO: 3, modifications selected from the group consisting of:
at least one mammalian regulatory sequence operatively linked to the lysostaphin coding region; and
removal of at least one glycosylation site.

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13. The gene of claim 11 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as in SEQ ID NO: 3 which comprises:

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a eukaryotic start codon;

the Kozak expression start site consensus sequence;

a eukaryotic promoter

a eukaryotic secretion signal; and

the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene were removed.

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14. The gene of claim 11 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as in
SEQ ID NO: 3 which comprises:

a eukaryotic start codon;

the Kozak expression start site consensus sequence;

a eukaryotic promoter; and

the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin
gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene were removed.

15. The gene of claim 11, 12, 13 or 14 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin
comprises preprolysostaphin.

16. The gene of claim 11, 12, 13 or 14 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin
comprises polysostaphin.

17. The gene of claim 11, 12, 13 or 14 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin
comprises mature lysostaphin.

18. A method for treating staphylococcal infection in a mammalian system, the
method comprising expressing in the cells of the system, a modified gene encoding
lysostaphin.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein expressing the gene involves expressing a copy
of the gene which is integrated into the cellular genome.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as
compared to SEQ ID NO: 3 so that at least one mammalian regulatory sequence is
operatively linked to the lysostaphin coding region and at least one glycosylation site is
removed.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as in SEQ ID NO: 3 so that at least one mammalian regulatory sequence is operatively linked to the lysostaphin coding region and both glycosylation sites are removed.

22 The method of claim 18 herein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as in

5 SEQ ID NO: 3 which comprises:

a eukaryotic start codon;

the Kozak expression start site consensus sequence;

a eukaryotic promoter

a eukaryotic secretion signal; and

10 the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene were removed.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin is modified as in SEQ ID NO: 3 which comprises:

a eukaryotic start codon;

15 the Kozak expression start site consensus sequence;

a eukaryotic promoter; and

the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene from which two glycosylation sites in the lysostaphin gene were removed.

24. The method of claim 18,22, or 23 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises preprolysostaphin.

25. The method of claim 18,22, or 23 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises polysostaphin.

26. The method of claim 18,22, or 23 wherein the gene encoding lysostaphin comprises mature lysostaphin.